

For people sitting in traffic on U.S. 69 or waiting for the bus in Wyandotte County or wondering why that one road floods every single year no matter how many times we fix it, this cannot wait. Not to mention, if we fail to act, critical surface transportation authorizations are going to run out by Friday.

I urge my colleagues to set aside gamesmanship and not see this as an opportunity for political points but instead an opportunity to deliver for our communities, the opportunity that our communities have been asking for us to deliver on.

THE BIDEN ECONOMIC AND SPENDING CRISIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah (Mr. OWENS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. OWENS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to continue sounding the alarm on the Biden Administration's economic and spending crisis that is hurting families in my district and killing American jobs.

This Big Government, ultra-inflation, and massive spending agenda has a big problem: the economy. It is spiking the price of groceries, gas, lumber, and everything in between.

Gasoline is up 42.7 percent. Chicken is up 7.2 percent. Eggs are up 9.9 percent. Public transportation is up 8.4 percent.

As I have heard from my families all across my district, Americans cannot afford this.

Utahns say they are paying more for just about everything. In fact, a recent statewide poll found that 85 percent of Utahns are very or somewhat concerned about inflation and rising costs.

Inflation is a tax on every single American.

With consumer prices reaching a 13-year high, it is clear this administration's agenda is bad for economic recovery and unsustainable for working-class Americans trying to make ends meet.

The Democrats' solution? Rush through the most expensive piece of legislation in the history of our country.

Another startling fact: This \$3.5 trillion spending plan is more than the GDP of Canada and Mexico combined.

While the White House continues to spread false realities to the American people, let's talk about the facts: The true cost of the bill is \$5.5 trillion, not \$3.5 trillion, and certainly not zero. It is going to increase the national debt by \$2.4 trillion. It will lead to 5.3 million jobs lost nationwide. The median family income will drop by \$12,000. Each American household will be burdened with \$35,439 of debt.

Americans across the country and Utahns in the Fourth District want to see fiscal responsibility restored at the Federal level. This out-of-control spending must stop.

HONORING LIVES LOST TO SENSELESS VIOLENCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. BOWMAN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BOWMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the lives of those lost due to senseless violence in my district:

Leon Wayne, age 26, gun violence.
Chevor Williams, age 28, gun violence.

Cori Lowe, age 31, stabbing victim.
Richard Black, age 39, gun violence.
Joseph Ramirez, age 43, gun violence.
Wray Harding, age 55, gun violence.
Aliyah Waiters, gun violence.
Marilyn Cotto Montanez, age 18, gun violence.

Guy Vanlew, Jr., age 18, gun violence.
Jeremy Logan, age 32, gun violence.
Omari Ellis, age 18, gun violence.
Warren Clahar, age 35, gun violence.
Olivia Green, age 15, fentanyl overdose.

Madam Speaker, I ask that we observe a moment of silence for the lives lost in my district due to senseless violence.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, the pandemic of senseless violence is not new. If you live in a poverty-stricken community and if you are Black or Latino in these communities, you are more susceptible to acts of senseless violence.

When I was in high school, trying to just be a good student and play on the football team, I ended up caught up in a situation where I was almost shot and killed. A few months later, at a party with some friends, just trying to go out and have a good time, I ended up in a situation where I was almost shot and killed.

If it weren't for sheer luck, I would not be standing here as a Member of Congress today.

Thankfully, at that time, I was able to move out of my community and move to a suburban community where it was much less likely for me to end up in a situation where I could be shot and killed.

I have so many friends and family members who did not have the luxury of moving out and the privilege of moving out of their community. As a result, they ended up dead at some very young ages, some 18, some 21, some even younger.

Oftentimes, when we have these conversations, we point to the perpetrators of these acts of violence and of these crimes and we identify them as bad individuals and we say that we need law enforcement to respond to remove those bad individuals from these situations, and we think that that method is enough to end the violence in these communities.

But we have invested in law enforcement for decades; the 1994 crime bill being one example of how we have made such investments and targeted highly violent communities. But the violence hasn't gone away, and the violence has only been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic that has isolated

many and has also created a mental health crisis.

So I ask and I beg this Chamber to recognize that this is not just about individual bad actors in communities. Poverty is a policy choice, and the trauma related to poverty and the lack of opportunity in so many of our communities will continue to lead to increases in violence that we see in poverty-stricken communities.

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We have to invest in education, healthcare, jobs, housing, mentorship, and so many other programs that could literally save the lives of our children before they ever decide to pick up a gun.

Lastly, and very quickly, we passed H.R. 8, commonsense gun reform legislation, in the House this year, and the Senate still has not acted on that legislation. Seventy percent of the incidents of gun violence that take place in New York are done with guns that come from outside of New York. So we have to move this gun legislation in the Senate.

BIDEN'S CRISES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Washington (Mr. NEWHOUSE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Madam Speaker, this week we learned that either President Biden ignored the advice of his top military advisers and lied to shift the blame for his disastrous Afghanistan withdrawal or that those advisers lied to Congress under oath.

General McKenzie and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Milley both informed the Senate and House Armed Services Committees that they recommended to President Biden that we keep 2,500 troops in Afghanistan. Yet President Biden has adamantly claimed that he never received such advice.

Americans have been abandoned, left to the mercy of a terrorist regime that wants to destroy Western culture and institutionalize widespread and systemic gender apartheid.

Our military weapons and equipment have been turned over to our adversaries for their use against us.

And our President continues to negotiate with terrorists after our servicemen and -women have been murdered.

Every last American must make it home. Anything less is inexcusable and a dereliction of his sworn oath.

The President's lack of leadership is not only failing us abroad, but it is also threatening our safety here at home. Just this year more than 1.3 million people have illegally crossed our border, including known terrorists.

An open southern border threatens our national security and the safety of all Americans, and I hope we can all agree that we must do something to stop this disturbing trend.

The President has a duty to act. Our Federal Government must enforce our